

ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE

Monthly Regular Meeting of Arlington Tree Committee

Wednesday, October 8th, 7:30 PM, Selectmen's Hearing Room, Town Hall

Present: Mary Ellen Aronow, Sally Naish, Liz Pilcher, Susan Stamps, Mike Rademacher. Prospective Member: Emily Snyder.

1. Welcome

Introduction of Emily to members and members short introduction.

2. Town Day Update

- **Booth feedback:** The booth was a success. People were waiting on line to talk to ATC members at Town Day.
- **Tree give-away:** The Scheibners won the tree. The tree was delivered. Ten entries were reviewed.
- **Follow ups:** SJN will follow up to thank people who entered the tree contest.

3. DPW Tree Department Update

- **Fall tree planting:** MR reported that this fall a contractor will plant 150 trees with a gator bag and a one-year guarantee. The locations of the new trees is based on the oldest tree requests. DPW looked at each location for presence of overhead wires, size of planting strip and suitability for a tree, then selected a tree accordingly. Mike communicated with about one dozen homeowners who either requested tree types not being planted or where there was no location for a tree. Where he could not accommodate the request, he offered other tree types. Tree Division staff will pass out watering instructions when the trees are planted this fall. We lost about 20 trees from the last planting. Those will be replaced this fall as well. An additional 100 trees remain on the tree request list.
- **Planting set-back agreement status:** Mike is waiting for comments from the Town Counsel to give final approval. The way it will work for now, is that when a tree is requested and there is insufficient space on the tree strip, the Tree Division will ask the homeowner if they wish to have the tree planted in their front yard. The tree will become the property of the homeowner after one year.
- **Tree Warden:** The approval has been given and the job is being advertised as a 24 hour a week position with benefits.
- **NSTAR:** Mike will give NSTAR the go-ahead to begin pruning after the leaves drop. In the past NSTAR has done aggressive tree pruning. Now NSTAR is more sensitive to the health and attractiveness of the tree. Mike says that he will discuss removal of a tree with NSTAR if removal of branches will result in an unsightly or unhealthy tree. NSTAR will be assigned one street where pruning is badly needed. There will then be a public hearing where feedback can be given.

4. Approval of July and September Meeting Minutes

Minutes were approved.

5. Publicity

- **Advocate article(s):** Next meeting we will discuss the publication calendar.
- **Website:** Discuss at next meeting
- **Facebook:** Discuss at next meeting
- **Tshirts/Business Cards:** Discuss T-shirts at next meeting; business cards were handed out.

6. Arlington Garden Club – unused funds for tree(s)

Each year the garden club sets aside \$500 for planting a tree in town. They didn't spend the funds last year. Now \$1000 is available. AGC asked SJN to request ATC recommended locations. Suggested locations include: at the Robbins Whittemore House; replacement of the dogwood close to the parking lot at the Library; replacement of a dead maple tree in the Town Hall garden; street trees between the Town Hall and Library that are dying.

7. Other Business

- **Tree concern at Appleton/Paul Revere:** The Elm planted in the last few years is not doing well. The site is maintained by Jim's Landscaping. SJN will get in touch to see what care is being given to the landscape there.
- **Tree concern 72 Highland Avenue:** Complaint about NSTAR pruning the tree. The DPW recommended that the tree be removed.
- **Tree concern at Florence and Charleton:** Previously resolved.

8. Membership

- **Chair rotation:** MEA reviewed terms of chair. We will discuss the appointment of the next junior/co-chair at the next meeting when EB is present.
- **New member search update:** MEA is going to contact Dan Dunn with a recommendation of Emily for membership to the ATC, after which Dan Dunn will contact Emily by letter with the appointment to the ATC.

Next meeting: Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month. November 12th.